Numb. LV.

THE

Pennſylvania GAZETTE.

Containing the freſheſt Advices Foreign and Domeſtick.

From Monday, December 1. to Thurſday, December 4. 1729.

CONTINUATION OF THE *ACCOUNT of the late Enquiry into the State of the* GOALS *in* ENGLAND.

AT the latter End of *June* or Beginning of *July* laſt, the ſaid *Bambridge* declared to *James Barnes*, one of the Agents of his Cruelties, *That he would have* Sinclair's *Blood*; and he took the Opportunity of the firſt Feſtival Day, which was on the firſt of *Auguſt* following, when he thought Capt. *Sinclair* might, by celebrating the Memory of the late King, be warmed with Liquor ſo far as to give him ſome Excuſe for the Cruelties which he intended to inflict upon him. But in ſome Meaſure he was diſappointed, for Capt. *Sinclair* was perfectly ſober, when the ſaid *Bambridge* ruſhed into his Room with a dark Lanthorn in his Hand, aſſiſted by his Accomplices *James Barnes* and *William Pindar*, and ſupported by his uſual Guard, armed with Muskets and Bayonets, and without any Provocation given, run his Lanthorn into Capt. *Sinclair*'s Face, ſeized him by the Collar, and told him he muſt come along with him: Capt. *Sinclair*, tho' ſurprized, asked for what and by what Authority he ſo treated him? Upon which *Barnes* and the reſt ſeized *Sinclair*, who ſtill deſiring to know by what Authority they ſo abuſed him? *Bambridge* groſly inſulted him, and ſtruck him with his Cane on the Head and Shoulders, whilſt he was held faſt by *Pindar* and *Barnes*. Such baſe and ſcandalous Uſage of this Gentleman, who had in the late Wars always ſignalized himſelf with the greateſt Courage, Gallantry and Honour in the Service of his Country upon many the moſt brave and deſperate Occaſions *, muſt be moſt ſhocking and intollerable; yet *Sinclair* bore it with Patience, refuſing only to go out of his Room unleſs he was forced; whereupon the ſaid *Bambridge* threatned to run his Cane down his Throat, and ordered his Guard to ſtab him with their Bayonets, or drag him down to the ſaid Dungeon called the *Strong Room*, the latter of which they did, and *Bambridge* kept him confined in that damp and loathſome Place, 'till he had loſt the Uſe of his Limbs and Memory, neither of which has he perfectly recovered to this Day. Many aggravating Cruelties were uſed to make his Confinement more terrible; and when *Bambridge* found he was in danger of immediate Death, he removed him, for fear of his dying in Dureſs, and cauſed him to be carried in a dying Condition from that Dungeon to a Room where there was no Bed or Furniture; and ſo unmercifully prevented his Friends having any Acceſs to him, that he was four Days without the leaſt Suſtenance.

It appeared to the Committee by the Evidence of a Surgeon and others, who were Priſoners in the Houſe, that when Capt. *Sinclair* was forced into that loathſome Dungeon he was in perfect Health.

Capt. *Sinclair* applied for Remedy at Law againſt the ſaid Cruelties of *Bambridge*, and had procured a *Habeas Corpus* for his Witneſſes to be brought before the Seſſions of *Oyer* and *Terminer*, when the ſaid *Bambridge* by colour of his aſſumed Authority as Warden, took the ſaid Writs of *Habeas Corpus* from the Officer whoſe Duty it was to make a Return of them, and commanded him to keep out of the Way, whilſt he himſelf went to the *Old Baily*, and immediately indicted *Sinclair* and ſuch of his Witneſſes as he knew he could not deter by Threats or prevail with by Promiſes to go from the Truth.

Capt. *Sinclair* had Temper enough to bear patiently almoſt-inſupportable Injuries, and to reſerve himſelf for a proper Occaſion, when Juſtice ſhould be done him by the Laws of the Realm.

But the ſaid *Bambridge* has forced others by Wrongs and Injuries beyond human bearing, to endeavour the avenging Injuries and Oppreſſions which they could no longer endure.

And it appeared to the Committee, that the ſaid *Bambridge*, in order to avoid the Puniſhment due to theſe Crimes, hath committed greater, and hath not only denied Admittance to the Solicitors, who might procure Juſtice to the injured Priſoners, and in open Defiance to the Law, diſobeyed the King's Writs, but hath alſo ſeduced ſome by indulging them in Riot, and terrified others with fear of Dureſs, to ſwear to and ſubſcribe ſuch falſe Affidavits as he thought fit to prepare for them, on ſeveral Occaſions; in all which Wrongs and Oppreſſions *John Everett* alſo acted as one of the ſaid *Bambridge*'s wicked Accomplices.

That the ſaid *Bambridge* being asked by the Committee, *By what Authority he pretended to put Priſoners into Dungeons and Irons?* anſwered, *That he did it by his own Authority, as Warden*, to preſerve the Quiet and Safety of the Cuſtody of the Priſon.

But it appeared to the Committee by the Examinations of many Witneſſes, that, before the Time when *Gybbon* and the ſaid *Bambridge* acted as Deputy-Wardens under Mr. *Huggins*, the Quiet and Safety of the Cuſtody were very well preſerved without any uſe of Irons or Dungeons.

That the two Dungeons, called the *Strong Room* on the Maſter Side, and the *Strong Room* on the Common Side, were both built within theſe few Years; and that the old Method of puniſhing drunken and diſorderly Perſons was putting them in the Stocks; and the Puniſhment of thoſe who had eſcaped, or attempted to eſcape, was putting them upon a Tub at the Gate of the Priſon, by Way of publick Shame, or ſecuring them, without Irons, in their proper Rooms for ſome Days.

And that the ſaid Dungeons were built in Defiance of and contrary to the Declaration of the Lord *King*, when Lord Chief Juſtice of the *Common Pleas*; who, upon an Application made to him on Behalf of the Priſoners of the *Fleet*, when Mr. *Huggins* and ——— *Gybbon* urged that there was Danger of Priſoners eſcaping, *Declared that they might raiſe their Walls higher, but that there ſhould be no Priſon within a Priſon.*

That

* *Her Grace the Dutcheſs Dowager of* Marlborough, *upon reading the* Report *relating to the* Fleet-Priſon, *was ſo affected by the Sufferings of that Gallant Officer Capt.* Sinclair, (*a Priſoner there for Debt,*) *who had ſerved, under the late Duke her Husband, in all the Campaigns in* Flanders, *that ſhe immediately ſent him* 50 *Guineas.*

That upon the ſtricteſt Enquiry, the Committee could not find that any Priſoner in the *Fleet* for Debt had been put in Irons, before the ſaid Mr. *Huggins* had the Office of Warden.

That it is not only the Deſign of the ſaid *T. Bambridge* to extort Money from his Priſoners, if they ſurvive his inhuman Treatment, but he ſeems to have a further View, in caſe it cauſes Death, of poſſeſſing himſelf of their Effects. One remarkable Proof of which the Committee think proper to inſert in their Report.

Mr. *John Holder*, a *Spaniſh* Merchant, was a Priſoner in the *Fleet*, and had a Room which he fitted up with his own Furniture, and had with him all his Books, Accounts and Writings, and other Effects, to the Value of about 30000*l.* which he declared by Affidavit, upon the following Occaſion. The ſaid *Bambridge* by Force turned the ſaid Mr. *Holder* over to the Common Side, and took Poſſeſſion of his Room in which all his Effects were; and when Mr. *Holder* remonſtrated ſtrongly againſt this Uſage, and *Bambridge* refuſed to reſtore him to his Room or Poſſeſſion of his Effects, he made a proper Affidavit in Order to apply to the Judges for Relief, and declared that he feared his Effects might be embezelled whilſt he was thus unjuſtly forced from them; and that he feared *Bambridge*'s cruel Treatment of him would be the Cauſe of his Death: The Miſeries of the Common Side, which he dreaded, had ſuch an Effect upon him, (being a Man of an advanced Age, and accuſtomed to live in Eaſe and Plenty,) that it threw him into ſuch a fit of Sickneſs as made his Life deſpaired of, and in his Illneſs he often declared, *That the Villain* Bambridge *would be the Occaſion of his Death.* Which proved true, for *Bambridge* finding Mr. *Holder* like to die in the Dureſs which he had put him into, (for his own ſake, to avoid the Puniſhment inflicted by Law upon Goalers who ſo inhumanly deſtroy their Priſoners) permitted him to be carried back to his Room, where in a few Days he died of the ſaid Sickneſs, contracted by the ſaid forcible Removal of him to the Common Side by *Bambridge*, as aforeſaid.

Mr. *Holder* by his laſt Will appointed Major *Wilſon* and Mr. *John Piggot* Truſtees for his Son, a Youth of about 13 Years of Age, who had accompanied him in the Time of his Confinement.

This young Gentleman after his Father's Death locked up his Effects in ſeveral Trunks and Boxes, and delivered the Keys thereof to Mr. *Piggott* as his Truſtee, who locked up the Room and took the Key with him; but the ſaid *Bambridge* cauſed the ſaid Room to be broke open by *Tho. King*, another of his Accomplices, and cauſed the ſaid Effects to be ſeized, after that he, *Bambridge*, had forced Mr. *Piggott* out of the Priſon, (tho' a Priſoner in Execution) and locked down Major *Wilſon* (the other Truſtee) in the Dungeon, to prevent their taking any Inventory in Behalf of the Heir at Law, then an Orphan.

Theſe evil Practices of letting out Priſoners, extorting exorbitant Fees, ſuffering Eſcapes, and exerciſing all Sorts of Inhumanity for Gain, may in a great Meaſure be imputed to the Venality of the Warden's Office; for the Warden who buys the Privilege of puniſhing others, does conſequently ſell his Forbearance at high Rates, and repair his own Charge and Loſs at the wretched Expence of the Eaſe and Quiet of the miſerable Objects in his Cuſtody.

Upon the whole Matter, the Committee came to the following Reſolutions, *viz.*

Reſolved, That it appears to this Committee, That *Tho. Bambridge*, the acting Warden of the Priſon of the *Fleet*, hath wilfully permitted ſeveral Debtors to the Crown in great Sums of Money, as well as Debtors to divers of His Majeſty's Subjects, to Eſcape; hath been guilty of the moſt notorious Breaches of his Truſt, great Extortions, and the higheſt Crimes and Miſdemeanors in the Execution of his ſaid Office; and hath arbitrarily and unlawfully loaded with Irons, put into Dungeons, and deſtroyed Priſoners for Debt under his Charge, treating them in the moſt barbarous and cruel Manner, in high Violation and Contempt of the Laws of this Kingdom.

Reſolved, That it appears to this Committee, That *John Huggins*, Eſq; late Warden of the Priſon of the *Fleet*, did, during the Time of his Wardenſhip, wilfully permit many conſiderable Debtors in his Cuſtody to Eſcape, and was notoriouſly guilty of great Breaches of his Truſt, Extortions, Cruelties, and other high Crimes and Miſdemeanors in the Execution of his Office, to the great Oppreſſion and Ruin of many of the Subjects of this Kingdom.

[*Here Ends the Extract from the Report of the Committee relating to the* Fleet-Priſon: *We ſhall hereafter give ſome Account of the Proſecution and Trials of the Wardens* Huggins *and* Bambridge.]

LONDON *September 6.*

By Letters from Bilton in Derbyſhire we have an Account of a Farm-Houſe, with Stabling, Barns, &c being conſumed by Fire, with all their new Crop; and the Houſe of a neighbouring Farmer, who came there to aſſiſt in extinguiſhing the ſame, broke out in the Interim and was alſo conſumed, by which 'tis conjectured they were ſet on Fire by ſome vile Perſon. The Damage is computed at near 2000 l.

From Carmarthen in South-Wales we hear that Sir Richard Steele lies dangerouſly ill at his Seat in that Town.

The ſame Accounts mention the Fatality of the Small Pox in that Place, which for this ſix Months paſt has carried off a great Number of the Inhabitants.

Cuſtom-Houſe, Philadelphia, Entred inwards.

Ship Watts, William Wallis, from London.
----- William, James Oſwald, from Barbadoes.
Sloop William, James White, from Cape-May.
----- John and Elizabeth, John Caſely, from Antigua.

Entred Outwards.

Sloop Adventure, Robert Rawle, for Surrinam.
Ship Torrington, Thomas Warcup, for Plymouth.

Cleared Out.

Brigt. Keith, Stephen Hoskins, to Jamaica.
Sloop Real-Deſign, Joſ. Frith, to Antigua.
----- Tace, Benjamin Hoskins, to South Carolina.
----- Trueman, John Hughes, to Curacoa.
----- William, James White, to Cape May.
----- Seaflower, Neh. Doane, to Boſton.

Buried in the ſeveral Burying-Grounds of this City in the Week paſt.

Quakers	1.	Baptiſts	0.		
Church	0.	Strangers,	Whites	1.	
Presbyterians	0.		Blacks	1.	

In all 3. *Decreaſed in the Burials this Week* 3.

N. B. New-York Poſt not yet come in.

Advertiſements.

Juſt Imported,

CHoice good *Red Clover Seed*: To be Sold by *George Claypole* in *Philadelphia.*

ALL Perſons who are indebted to *Edward Horne* (who is lately removed to his Plantation about three Miles diſtant from this City) are deſired forthwith to pay their reſpective Debts to *William Rawle*, Merchant in *Philadelphia*, who is apppointed to receive the ſame by

EDWARD HORNE.

TO be SOLD, by the aboveſaid *William Rawle*, White and Brown Oznaburghs, Cherryderries, Seerſuckers, Cuſtoes, Challoes, Callicoes of divers Sorts; Cinamon; ſundry Sorts of Cottons-and-Linens ſtrip'd and chequed; Silk and Linen Romalls, Tobine, Chucklaces, Berryllian and other *Eaſt-India* Goods for Womens Apparel; Muſlins of ſeveral Sorts; wide and narrow Garlix, Copperas, Powder-blue, Coffee, Chocolate, Caſes of Bottles; Duffells, Druggetts, Fuſtain, Cloth Serge, Mohair Buttons ſorted; ſundry Sorts of Stationary Ware, as Bibles, Teſtaments, Spelling and Arithmetick Books; Ink-Powder, Sealing-Wax, Printing-Paper large and ſmall; Corke Soals, and ſundry other Goods.

Philadelphia: Printed by *B. Franklin* and *H. Meredith*, at the New Printing-Office near the Market, where Advertiſements are taken in, and all Perſons may be ſupplied with this Paper, at *Ten Shillings* a Year.